

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd November 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	4,000	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
Fortnightly.				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	15th November 1879.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	
7	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	
8	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	18th ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	
11	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	14th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
14	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	400	
15	"Medinī"	Midnapore	250	17th ditto.
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	
17	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	17th ditto.
18	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
19	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinia, Rangpore	250	
20	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	16th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	
22	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	14th ditto.
23	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	
24	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	260	
25	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	15th ditto.
26	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	17th ditto.
Tri-weekly.				
27	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta	
Daily.				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	700	12th to 19th November 1879.
29	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	13th to 20th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	17th to 19th ditto.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	17th & 18th ditto.
32	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	14th to 20th ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
33	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
34	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
Daily.				
35	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader	Ditto	17th to 21st November 1879.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
36	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	
37	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	13th November 1879.
38	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	16th ditto.
39	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
PERSIAN.				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	14th ditto.

POLITICAL.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
November 14th, 1879.

THE *Education Gazette*, of the 14th November, remarks that an annexation of Afghanistan would not necessarily, as has been argued by some, prove

Annexation of Afghanistan.

financially a burden upon India. Sufficient revenues might be gradually raised from the country itself by judicious administration. New sources of income would be discovered and fostered with care; and although it might, at first, become necessary to open loans for the public service in Cabul, these might be gradually paid off from the increased revenues of the country. The procedure in this respect would not be a novel one. In fact, this was actually done in India as often as any new annexations of territory caused financial embarrassments.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
November 15th, 1879.

2. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 15th November, remarks, in reference to the rumour that Yakub Khan will be confined as a State prisoner in the Fort of

Yakub Khan.

Chunar, that the whole affair looks like an enigma. Yakub has given away all his treasure to the British army, still, on the strength of mere suspicion, a strong guard has been placed over him. The Amir's condition truly excites our pity. It behoves the British Government to treat him with leniency and such respect as is due to his rank.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
November 15th, 1879.

3. Referring to the Afghan war, the *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 15th November, remarks as follows:—Now that

The Afghan war.

Cabul has fallen, the question arises what policy should our Government adopt towards Afghanistan? The military authorities would like to annex it to the British empire. But have they considered the question of expense? We do not know what the war has already cost, and who will have to pay for it. India is almost bankrupt. Besides, the annexation of Afghanistan will only make Russia our hostile neighbour. Whatever designs she may have against India will be furthered by this extension of our frontiers. We shall have now to fight for the Indian empire on the banks of the Oxus. Does not our Governor-General, Lord Lytton, think of the difficulties of such a task? We earnestly ask His Lordship to consider the extent of the danger to which the British empire would be exposed by an annexation of any portion of Afghanistan. India is too poor to pay the costs of such an undertaking. The best course for us is to return to India after punishing the Afghans. There is no necessity of maintaining a Resident at Cabul.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI.

4. The same paper speaks with approval of the withdrawal of the British Resident from Mandalay. Notwithstanding the protests of the British Govern-

Burma.

ment, King Theebaw has persisted in a career of monstrous cruelty. Though it was not difficult for the British Government to punish such an insignificant adversary, yet, considering the financial condition of India, the Government has done well in not engaging in a Burmese war, while it has an Afghan war still on its hands.

SADHARANI,
November 16th, 1879.

5. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sadharani*, of the 16th November, headed the

Rules regarding newspaper correspondents.

Gradual Development of Despotism:—The

Government of India has recently promulgated certain rules for the guidance of newspaper correspondents accompanying any British army of invasion, which are equally applicable to correspondents of English and native papers. In the case of the latter, however, they will practically remain inoperative. The interests of English papers alone being thus affected, the Editors have expressed themselves greatly dissatisfied with the rules. After referring to the issue of the correspondence between General Roberts and Mr. Macpherson, the special of one of the English papers, in which the action of the former was

upheld by Government, the Editor proceeds to remark: Fortunately, or rather unfortunately, the representative of Her Imperial Majesty in India has now-a-days become somewhat despotic in his views, so that whatever he himself or any one of his party wills should be done is generally carried out into practice. Neither prohibition nor advice is listened to; the wails of the people of India do not melt the Viceroy's heart, and he compasses his ends by force, stratagem, or skill. When, after the murder of Cavagnari, a war with the savage people of Afghanistan became imminent, the Government of India issued a proclamation directing correspondents of newspapers not to accompany the British army to the frontier. The reason which was assigned for this step was the inability of Government to take proper care of these men. Many, of course, regarded this as an idle pretext. Was it at all likely, they argued, that the mighty British Government, which commanded almost endless resources, was really unable to provide half a dozen newspaper correspondents with the necessaries of life? Government has at length thrown off the mask, and, sacrificing all feelings of delicacy, has plainly given the Press to understand, that unless the correspondents undertook to subscribe to the rules in question, they would not be allowed to proceed to Afghanistan.

These rules, however, are so stringent and illiberal in their character, that no gentleman could abide by them; what again would Editors gain by having correspondents so completely fettered in their action? The rules are said to have been drawn up by some one in England. We had never dreamt that a land, a breath of whose atmosphere inspires men with a sense of liberty, should ever give birth to such regulations, unless it were supposed that the soil and atmosphere of England have so far deteriorated because of the close relations which have sprung up between it and India.

After giving the substance of the rules, the editor proceeds to remark as follows:—We need not write more. The extracts given above will sufficiently show the character of these rules. If the Sovereign was determined to pursue a policy of despotism, the character of any particular act in accordance with this policy should not excite wonder. The promulgation of the rules therefore is not inopportune.

It is necessary, to the introduction of despotic rule into a country, that the vernacular papers published therein should first be gagged. This consideration it was which primarily led Government to frame Act IX of 1878. How glad the Editors of English papers were when that measure became law, and how much they reviled the native newspapers. But retribution was near at hand. These foolish Editors did not then understand that the enactment of the Vernacular Press Act was but the prelude to a greater thing to come—the destruction of the liberty of the Press. Of course the weak, the poor, and the helpless were the first to be made victims; to be followed slowly, but in the end surely, by the members of the English Press too.

6. We give below the substance of another editorial from the same paper: In commenting in our last issue on the situation in Afghanistan, we remarked that the only wise course was for Government to completely retire from the country. It, however, now appears that Government has not even for a single moment entertained any such notion. With the aid of invincible firearms, you might, if you chose, pull down even the Himalayas, but you could not by the same means construct even the very smallest mound conceivable. Government has destroyed whatever system or order there was in Cabul, and is now at a loss to understand how it can again create what it has unmade. Some idea of the policy which is likely to be adopted towards Cabul may be obtained from an article in one of the

Cabul and the British Government.

recent numbers of the *Times*, in which Government is asked to convene a meeting of the Durani Afghans and entrust them with the duty of selecting an Amir. It thus appears that long before Yakub Khan had actually expressed his intention of abdicating the throne of Cabul, all expectation of ever ascending it had died in his breast; otherwise his action was hardly consistent with his long-sustained efforts to be the ruler of Afghanistan. We have now learnt that the practice of making it appear that a ruler has voluntarily abdicated his throne, when in truth he was but indirectly compelled to do so, is one which is often resorted to by diplomats. Be that as it may, Government is again perhaps thinking of setting up a puppet in Cabul, and making a treaty with him. It is also probable that the rulers hope by this means to again bring Herat and Balkh, the mutinous provinces of Afghanistan, under the Government of Cabul. But there is very little likelihood of this plan proving successful. It is not at all likely that the insurgents of these two provinces will acknowledge the sway of a creature of the British Government. If it is thought that they would do so from a fear of the British Government, why then set up a puppet intermediate between your authority and the people? Why not annex the country altogether? If there were any intention of reverting to the policy of Shah Shoojah's days, we would ask Government to dismiss it entirely from their minds. That policy, which had for its object the punishment of the disaffected by the agency of the Amir, a mere nominee of the British Government, brought considerable disgrace upon it. An annexation, pure and simple, would be infinitely better than that. In conclusion, the Editor remarks that the extension of the North-West frontiers of India has rather weakened than strengthened the boundaries of the country in that direction: that it has increased, rather than diminished, the chances of a Russian invasion; and that, without considerable expenditure and trouble, it will not be possible for the British Government to dominate Afghanistan. The only wise course therefore that is now open to it is to return within its old frontier.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

PRABHATI,
November 14th, 1879.

7. Referring to the new Civil Service which has been created for the people of this country, the *Prabhātī*, of the 14th November, argues that the service is likely to enjoy but a short lease of life. Government will do away with the new Civil Service in the same way as it has practically done away with the rule for the admission of the natives of India to the competitive examination for the Covenanted Civil Service. When the people of India were first allowed to compete, the maximum limit of age for the candidates was declared to be 23 years. Perhaps Government then thought that the educated Hindoos would not have the courage to proceed to England by breaking through the bonds which society imposed upon them. But, as they began to go to England, the limit of age was reduced to 21 years; yet they did not desist, and the limit has at last been reduced to 19 years. This will practically exclude the people of this country from the open competition. We have already said that the new Civil Service which has been created for the natives of India is but a child's toy. It was the intention of Parliament that they should be allowed to enter the Indian Civil Service, but the new service occupies an intermediate position between the Covenanted and the Uncovenanted Service. The nomination system, which will introduce into it a number of worthless men, will bring discredit upon it; and Government will then have an opportunity of doing away with it, saying that the people of this country are not yet fitted to fill such high posts.

PRABHATI,
November 18th, 1879.

8. The same paper, in its issue of the 18th November, notices the increase of litigation in this country, and thinks that it is mainly due to

the law-brokers, who hang about the Courts and induce people to resort to law even in trivial matters. This evil might be put down if the legal practitioners would unanimously resolve not to take cases, but from the plaintiffs or defendants or their authorized agents or faithful friends. The litigating parties should also resolve not to go to these brokers.

9. The following is the substance of an article in the *Samáchar Chandriká* of the 17th November:—Money is wanted by Government for the Afghan war.

The proposed Income Tax.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
November 17th, 1879.

The proceeds of the license tax, which was imposed for famine purposes, have already been swallowed up by the war. The reductions made in the Public Works Department will hardly furnish sufficient funds. The Cooper's Hill College has not been closed, and new batches of successful students from it will soon supply the place of those officers of the Public Works Department who have been induced to retire with pension on advantageous terms. It is now proposed to impose an income tax, from whose operation high-salaried men, whether in public or in private service, will not escape. The oppressions of the license tax on men with small incomes have been so conclusively proved that Government has wisely determined to exempt those whose incomes are less than Rs. 250 per annum. Though we are not in favour of direct taxes, yet we think that the proposed income tax is much better than the present license tax. Those traders or dealers whose incomes are not less than Rs. 250 a year will not be absolutely deprived of the necessities of life, if Government takes something from them. Nor will those suffer very much who draw a salary of more than one hundred rupees a month. But why are those military men exempted whose income falls below Rs. 6,000 a year? Why this special favour to the military profession? Is it because the earth is still to be deluged with blood?

10. In the course of an article on the last Administration Report of the Registration Department, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 17th November, refers to a state-

The practice of making wills, &c.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
November 17th, 1879.

ment made by the Inspector-General that the decrease in the number of wills presented for registration during the year under review is due to the fact that the practice of making wills is not in vogue in this country. Now, remarks the Editor, this practice would have indeed become exceedingly popular had it not been for the very undesirable consequences which were produced by the wills of the late Prasanna Kumar Tagore and Rajah Radha Kanta Dev, and which have led the people to lose their faith in the validity of wills. Many are heard to express regret that wills do not remain valid to the end; more especially the confirmation by the Courts of sales of property belonging to religious endowments is making men less willing than before to bequeath property for such noble purposes. We earnestly beseech Government to initiate such legislation as may encourage the charitably disposed to undertake works of public utility. Considerable property might be preserved from decay, and many useful measures undertaken, if the system of making wills were more popularized than is the case at present. In fact the popular character of this institution among the English people is one of the causes of England's prosperity.

The sale of female children to prostitutes by poor Mahomedans in Pubna, which is referred to in the report, and for which the Registrar assigns the extreme poverty of the parents as the reason, is next commented upon. For this matter, our Christian Government ought to be really ashamed. Government imposed a license tax for the purpose of famine relief, but its proceeds are being expended on a needless war for the extermination of the Afghans, while those from whose life-blood the tax is being squeezed are through hunger compelled to sell their children for prostitution. The Mahomedan Marriage Registration Act is

reported to be unpopular, and its unpopularity is attributed to the fact that the people are so saddled with a multiplicity of laws, that they cannot endure any more legislation. In conclusion, the Inspector-General is asked to use means for checking the prevalence of perjury and forgery. 1

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
November 17th, 1879.

11. The same paper regrets to hear that the Secretary of State has refused to accord his sanction to the proposal to create appellate benches in Bengal, which

was in the first instance made by Sir Ashley Eden, and afterwards received the support of the Government of India. The Editor sets forth at considerable length the advantages which would have accrued if the scheme had become an accomplished fact, and notes with surprise that the chief reason of the Secretary of State's withholding his assent is said to be the low condition of the finances. While admitting the truth as regards the state of the public funds, he does not yet see why this should have stood in the way of the measure being adopted; for it is not always that the Secretary of State looks to the deficit under which the Indian Exchequer labors. There was a lack of funds when the import duties on Manchester goods were remitted to the tune of 20 lakhs of rupees a year. There was no talk of deficits when a war was declared against Afghanistan in utter disregard of the counsels of some of the wisest statesmen. We can well understand that no such plea would have been advanced if, by the formation of the appellate benches, it had been possible in any way to subserve the interests of Lancashire merchants. The scheme is not a costly one; and ten such measures as the one now advocated might be undertaken and their cost met by making reductions of extravagant expenditure. By disallowing the proposal, the Secretary of State has further placed an obstacle in the way of the advance of the natives of the country. It is again said that he has directed the Government of India to adopt measures for the discontinuance of direct appeals to the High Court. The High Court is the guardian of the life and liberty of the subjects; and any measure which restricted its jurisdiction or curtailed its powers could not but be extremely injurious to their interests.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

12. The same paper refers to some of the abuses which have crept into the system of trial by jury and made it both unpopular and well nigh useless. Now

these are due in the first place to the faulty mode of selecting the jurors. The Magistrate who is charged with this duty, as a matter of fact, does not do even the least part of it, and delegates it wholly to the police; the subordinate members of which, ignorant and illiterate as they are, make up the jury list as best they can. The result is that men devoid of education and worth are selected as jurors, and when acting in this capacity return verdicts which are absurd and justly expose them to derision. Another cause of the unpopularity of the system will be found to lie in the inconvenience and trouble to which jurors are subjected while attending the Sessions. Some of them are obliged to dance attendance at the Courts for days together before called upon to take part in any case. Some again are summoned to sit as jurors for three or four times a year, while others hardly once during the same period. Then again the personal service of the summons should be enjoined, as it frequently happens that owing to the carelessness of the service peons jurors are not made aware of the fact of their being summoned, and are consequently heavily fined for non-attendance.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
November 18th, 1879.

13. The following extracts are made from an article on the new Civil Service in the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 18th November:—A perusal of these

papers clearly shows what the feelings of Lord Lytton are towards the people of this country. There may be some truth in the statement that Englishmen do not like to serve under natives. But is it for the Indian Viceroy to

encourage such narrow-mindedness? Or is it not his duty to repress such feelings by looking on all with an equal eye? Lord Lytton also recommended that steps should be taken to prevent natives of India from being appointed to the Civil Service by competitive examination in England. Was this recommendation worthy of the Viceroy or of an honest heart? This is the first time we see a ruler who is opposed to the advancement of his subjects.

LOCAL.

14. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 14th November, asks for the interposition of Government in the matter of persuading the zemindars, who own the different *khals* proceeding inland from the Jumna river, to cause the clearance of the silts which have formed at their mouths, and thus set free the channel of the river. If this were done, a great boon would be conferred upon the people. EDUCATION GAZETTE,
November 14th, 1879.

15. Another, writing to the same paper, remarks in reference to the Government Resolution on the last Administration Report of the Rajshahye Division that, although the condition of those tenants who possess holdings has improved owing to a rise in prices, the great mass of the actual cultivators of the soil are now worse off than before. Owing to high prices they cannot procure full meals. Most of them are mere tenants-at-will, and are obliged to pay high rents. Almost all are in a state of indebtedness to the mahajun, who charges an exorbitant rate of interest; in fact, $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and even more is the rate at which the ryot is obliged to borrow; and it is not difficult to guess what consequences this leads to. The ryot's land is gradually passing into the hands of the mahajun. It is to be hoped that the labors of the Rent Commission will result in the discovery of some means whereby the ryot may be saved from the greed of the money-lender. The writer then refers to the extortion and oppressions committed by the police and the zemindar's underlings. The system of primary education in Dinagepore, which is referred to as a success in the Government Resolution, is spoken of as a failure. EDUCATION GAZETTE.

16. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 14th November, strongly deprecates the proposal to remove the post office at Hatkhola to some place in Beadon Street. This measure, if carried out, will be an instance of false economy, and cause serious inconvenience to the native trading community of Hatkhola and adjacent parts of the town. SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
November 14th, 1879.

17. The *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 15th November, complains of the inconvenience which the passengers are put to when travelling on the State Railways. There seems to be no one to look after these lines. The case is far better on railways managed by private companies, which are to some extent guided by rules and regulations. There is, however, no such thing known on the lines under the management of the State; and the reason is perhaps that the authorities in charge are more anxious to effect retrenchments than promote the comfort and convenience of the passengers. On the Tirhoot State Railway, for instance, the trains are almost always late, and do not contain any seats for the accommodation of the passengers. At the Barrh Ghât the steamer is never available at the proper hour, and it is not unusual for passengers to have to spend hours under the trees on the banks of the Ganges, exposed to the cold night-air. The steamer is again often brought to a stand-still on account of the shallowness of the river at this place. The writer suggests that two smaller steamers, instead of the present large one, should ply on the Ganges below Barrh. SULABHA SAMACHAR,
November 15th, 1879.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
November 18th, 1879.

18. In an article on the village chowkidars, the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 18th November, describes the distress that exists among them. The *chakran* lands, upon which they depend mainly for their subsistence, do not produce, in these days of drought and unseasonable rainfall, as much as they formerly did; and in villages bordering on the East Indian Railway, much of these lands has been taken for public purposes. The chowkidars have heavy duties to perform. They have to carry out the orders of Government officers, of the zemindars' amlah, and of the villagers also. They have thus so many things to do that they can hardly do anything else to obtain a livelihood without being guilty of a neglect of duty. Thus it happens that they shew an extreme willingness to give up their present posts, but their resignations are rarely accepted. Owing to the ravages of the epidemic fever, villages have been so depopulated that the writer thinks it would be advantageous to reduce the number of the village chowkidars, and to re-distribute the *chakran* lands among them.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 22nd November 1879.